

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 SSM-03

EUR-12 ARA-10 EB-08 HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 /163 W

-----011430 300956Z /17

R 300933Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8326

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, US, JA, EG

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR

1. LOCAL EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MOHSEN ABDEL-KHALEK CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD MAY 26 TO INQUIRE ABOUT U.S.- JAPAN DISCUSSIONS OF MIDEAST PROBLEMS DURING FUKUDA VISIT TO WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH. KHALEK, WHO APPEARED ALREADY WELL-BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF FUKUDA VISIT, WAS PARTICULARLY CURIOUS WHETHER SECRETARY VANCE'S REPORTED MENTION TO JAPANESE OF FIVE TO TEN YEAR TIMEFRAME NEEDED FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF MIDEAST PEACE SOLUTION REFLECTED DEFINITE SCHEDULE IN USG THINKING. IN REVIEWING GENERAL NATURE OF BRIEF EXCHANGES ON MIDEAST DURING FUKUDA VISIT, AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD SUGGESTED THAT FIVE TO TEN YEARS COMMENT REPRESENTED LESS ANY RIGID TIMEFRAME THAN U.S. APPRECIATION OF DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING ANY LASTING SETTLEMENT.

2. DURING MEETING KHALEK SPOKE AT LENGTH OF INCREASING PRESSURES ON SADAT TO PRODUCE VISIBLE PROGRESS WITH ISRAELIS. ALTHOUGH APPRECIATIVE OF RECENT SENATE APPROVAL OF MIDEAST JET PACKAGE, HE URGED US TO PLAY EVEN MORE
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ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING MODERATE ARAB STATES AND ACHIEVING PEACE SETTLEMENT. ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF PM BEGIN'S INTRANSIGENCE, KHALEK DEVOTED GREATER ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS POSED EGYPT BY OMINOUS TREND OF INCREASED SOVIET-SUPPORTED ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT REGION, CITING AS EXAMPLES: CONTINUED LIBYAN HOSTILITY, IRAQI AMBITIONS, SOVIET-CUBAN ADVENTURISM ON HORN AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA,

AND GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE. (INDEED, BASIC THEME OF KHALEK'S PRESENTATION APPEARED TO BE THAT PROBLEMS WITH ISRAELIS REPRESENTED UNWELCOME DIVERSION FROM MUCH MORE SERIOUS THREATS).

3. AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD NOTED THAT USG WAS URGING JAPAN TO INCREASE ITS LEVEL OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT, MOVE WHICH KHALEK WELCOMED. (IN SUBSEQUENT REMARKS TO EMBOFF, KHALEK EXPRESSED SOME IRRITATION WITH JAPAN'S RELATIVELY LOW POSTURE IN MIDEAST, NOTING THAT IN RECENT MONTHS BOTH EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS HAD "BLUNTLY" INFORMED GOJ OF NEED TO PLAY MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND FORTH-COMING ROLE IN SUPPORT OF ARAB MODERATES. FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA, HE OBSERVED, HAD UNDERSTOOD THIS MESSAGE PARTICULARLY WELL).

4. COMMENT: KHALEK, WHO HAS BEEN POSTED IN TOKYO SINCE 1973, COMES ACROSS AS BRIGHT, ARTICULATE AND PERSONABLE--AN ENGAGING INTERLOCUTOR. DURING HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, HE MADE REFERENCE TO PAST CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SADAT AS YOUNG FELLOW OFFICERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE BRITISH. HE SPOKE WITH VISIBLE ADMIRATION OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S LEGENDARY COMPOSURE UNDER PRESSURE, BUT NOTED THAT RECENT VISIBLE CRACKS IN SADAT'S SANG-FROID WERE, IN HIS MIND, UNUSUALLY OMINOUS INDICATIONS OF INCREASING DIFFICULTIES EGYPTIAN LEADER FACED. MANSFIELD
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